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VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

Female Medical College

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AT THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

MARCH 14, 1863,

BY EMELINE H. CLEVELAND, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,

WITH

ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

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1863.

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PHILADELPHIA:
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1863.

EMELINE H. CLEVELAND, M. D.

MADAME:

The undersigned have been directed to transmit to you the enclosed Resolution, unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Corporators of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, held on the 14th inst.;

"*Resolved*, That we have listened with much gratification to the able and appropriate Vale-"dictory Address pronounced this day by Professor E. H. Cleveland before the Graduating Class "of the College and others assembled on that occasion, and that a copy thereof be requested for "publication."

In discharging the pleasing duty thus devolved upon us, and soliciting your compliance with the request of the Corporators, we avail ourselves of the occasion to express our individual esteem and high regards.

ISAAC BARTON,
T. MORRIS PEROT,
M. MOORE,
REDWOOD F. WARNER,
Committee.

Philadelphia, March 17, 1863.

GENTLEMEN:

Your note, with the Resolution of the Corporators, requesting a copy of my late Valedictory Address, has been received. The address was prepared for the comparatively private occasion of our College Commencement, and with no thought of its publication; neither does it seem to myself worthy of such approval. The request of the Corporators is however a sufficient reason for waiving my own judgment in the matter, and I herewith transmit to you my manuscript.

You will permit me to thank you for your expressions of esteem and regard, and to subscribe myself, with great respect, yours truly,

E. H. CLEVELAND.

Messrs. ISAAC BARTON,
T. MORRIS PEROT,
M. MOORE,
REDWOOD F. WARNER.

Philadelphia, March 19, 1863.

COMMENCEMENT.

The Eleventh Annual Commencement was held at the College, North College Avenue and Twenty-second Street, on Saturday the 14th of March, 1863, when the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the President, T. Morris Perot, Esq., upon the following named ladies:

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
SARAH J. McCARN,	New York.	Infancy.
JERUSHA M. McCRAY,	Indiana.	Nervous System.
FRANCES AMELIA COOK,	California.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

LADIES, GRADUATES:—

The few months of another College session have flitted by so rapidly, that, almost in the breath of our greeting we find ourselves called to bid you farewell; but though the period of our intercourse has been brief—from mid-autumn to early spring—it has furnished time, with its daily recurring social and professional sympathies, for the formation and growth of mutual attachments, and we cannot part from you with indifference.

In the name of the Faculty, and on its behalf, it is to-day my duty, at once pleasant and sad, to give you some formal expression of regard, and some word of affectionate adieu.

Allow us to congratulate you upon the successful accomplishment of this preliminary portion of your medical career—that one object, ardently sought, has been worthily attained, and that you are made, to-day, recipients of the Diploma of this College, with the privileges, rights, and immunities incident to a medical degree. We congratulate you the more from our personal knowledge of your meritorious reception of this distinction, and from our conviction that you will do honor to the instrument thus placed in your hands.

We rejoice with almost parental satisfaction in the pleasure you experience to-day; but while we look forward with glad anticipations to the future, as it shall open before you, we can-cannot forget, on our own part, that our mutual relationships cease with this interview. Our interest in your welfare will

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not terminate here however. Witnesses as we have been of your earnest efforts, sharing as we share, your affectionate regard, and knowing, as we know from experience, that your future may not be all bright, we would mingle with our exultations on your behalf, a word of tender sympathy and the assurance, that should trials and disappointments come to you, you may rely trustingly upon our unfailing friendship.

We would not omit this opportunity to congratulate ourselves and you upon the present aspect of our common cause. It is true that opposition is still felt to the idea of woman in the medical profession; an opposition founded, as we are convinced, in part, upon disbelief in her fitness for the physician's work, in part upon jealously of her influence and her pecuniary success. We are glad, however, to assure you that in our own country this opposition is materially diminishing—that in many communities women physicians are welcomed and encouraged, and that, not unfrequently, by resident members of the profession. We have assurances from women who have settled as physicians in various parts of the country, and who have carried to their work that resolution and energy necessary to ensure success in any undertaking, that they have soon gained the confidence of the community, and an amount of practice to be compared favorably with that of any male physician of an equal term of residence. Indeed, in some instances, it has been surprising to observe how quickly all opposition has vanished, and how soon the woman physician has come to be regarded as indispensable.

In some large cities, especially in our own, prejudice has assumed a more active form, and you are not unaware that the records of the Philadelphia County, and even the Pennsylvania State Medical Societies are disgraced with resolutions denying professional recognition, not to women only, but to those of the other sex, who shall hold medical consultation with them, or otherwise favor our enterprise. We are happy, however, to chronicle the fact, that so rapidly is this prejudice giving way, that not only may members of the Philadelphia County Medical Society consult with women and their instructors, but those

of them belonging to the professional aristocracy of our professionally proud city, may request such consultations.

The general hospitals of our country are still closed, except in one or two instances, to the medical inspection of women. The establishment of separate hospitals under the auspices of women, is in part annulling this disadvantage—in part only—as these institutions are yet in their infancy, and incapable of affording that amount and variety of practice to be observed in older and more extensive establishments.

Abroad, especially in Britain, is our enterprise assuming a phase of more than common interest. We hear most flattering accounts of the reception given in London to an American lady, now prosecuting her medical studies in that city. From Drs. Carpenter and Druitt, she has received friendly encouragement, and their formal recognition of her medical degree; while she is admitted to visit freely in some of the best London hospitals.

We trust the time is not far distant when the Universities of Britain, not less than her Hospitals, shall be open to women for medical study. Indeed, during the last year a young English woman of intelligence, wealth and position, was admitted as a medical student to the University School of St. Andrews, Edinboro, and that without objection, except on the part of a single professor, whose conservative tendencies led him to vigorous opposition.

We regret to say that his objections were so strongly urged that the Senatus became alarmed at the idea of having been the first to take the lead in so great an innovation; and, after consideration, resolved that "the granting of tickets in the case was not sufficiently authorized; that this novel question raised ought to be deliberately considered and decided; and that the opinions of other Universities and of lawyers should be taken of the matter, if thought advisable."

Legal counsel was taken, which was adverse to the applicant, simply on the ground of the alleged "inexpediency of admitting female students to the University with a view and with the

right of graduation; not that there exists in the charters or foundations of St. Andrews anything which could be construed to deprive the Senatus of the power of receiving such students under such regulations as might be thought reasonable."

Decisions of this sort will not long satisfy the British public, especially in the face of inquiries from the British press as to the right of Senati thus to exclude ladies from Universities founded by law and supported by public money, and in presence of assertions that "it is not wrong, but right, to educate women to the highest pitch possible, and that female doctors of medicine would be a great boon to society, and an invaluable safeguard to the feelings of delicacy of their own sex:"* and, in Britain, where the House of Commons is King, the opinions and wants of the people will ultimately become the ruling power with Senati Academici even.

In other parts of the old world but little effort is making for the medical education of women, beyond a midwifery education. In Vienna and Berlin, we are not aware that admittance has recently been asked, by women, to Universities or general hospitals. In Paris, L'Ecole de Médicine is religiously closed, and general hospitals are entered only by personal favor. L' Administration de l' Assistance Publique will officially deny all women admittance to the wards of the various hospitals under its control, for the purpose of medical inspection, while many of its physicians will look upon them as innovators, and peremptorily refuse their application. Others, with a real magnanimity, will admit their right and title to a profound medical education, and extend to them every opportunity within their power for observation and experience.

The influence of women upon the profession has hardly, as yet, become a matter of history. Too brief a period has elapsed since their introduction to the arena of medicine to have proved more than the personal capability or incapability of the several women who have chosen this as their field of labor. Whatever may arrive in the future, it is not yet observed, however, that

* Weekly Scotsman, Nov. 8, 1862.

a lower standard of attainments prevails in the profession, or that any new system of ethics has been formally adopted, elsewhere than in Pennsylvania.

It has been contended that the constitution of the female mind is such as would render woman a dangerous element in a profession in which are needed nice discriminations and logical reasonings. That her mind is less inductive than that of man is, perhaps, possible, while there may be truth in the suggestion of a departed son of genius, that "induction is not the whole of logic, or the Baconian method alone worthy the attention of sound and sensible thinkers." Many of our greatest modern discoveries attest the utility and power of deductive reasoning—that the mind may safely journey from ideas to facts, as from facts to ideas, and possibly this very element of deduction in the female mind may become an element of progress in the medical profession.

In other departments has this same element, whether clad in the garb of manhood or of womanhood, left its impress upon science and upon art, and who does not know, that to the deductive mind of the immortal Goéthe are we indebted for one of the most interesting discoveries in a department of physical science, in which the physician is especially interested. "Strolling in a cemetry near Venice, he stumbled on a skull which was lying before him. Suddenly the idea flashed across his mind, that the skull was composed of vertebræ; in other words, that the bony covering of the head was simply an expansion of the bony covering of the spine. This luminous idea was afterwards adopted by Oken and a few other great naturalists of France and Germany, but was not received in England till ten years ago, when Mr. Owen took it up, and in his remarkable work on the *Homologies of the Vertebrate Skeleton*, showed its meaning and purpose as contributing toward a general system of philosophical anatomy."

Ladies, we have not told you, or pretended to tell you, the whole of medicine. It is a subject too vast to be discussed minutely in the ordinary term of a college session, or to be compassed in its fullness in the common period of medical study; but,

if, in our several departments we have made you familiar with their fundamental facts and principles, so that henceforth you may profitably conduct your own investigations, we have done about what we could, and we may safely rely upon your inherent interest in the profession of your choice, and upon your conscientious regard for your reputation as physicians, and for the welfare of those who may become your patients, for assurances that your study shall not terminate with to-day. Though you here bid farewell to the lecture-room, and cease your attendance upon formal instructions, we are persuaded you will but transfer to a more responsible field the same interest, the same untiring energy, with "the patience of hope."

A broad field for observation and philosophical inquiry lies before you:—we say philosophical, for there is philosophy in medicine as well as in mechanics. Like every abstract science, medicine rests upon a basis of principles, and is built up of general ideas, upon each of which is dependent a host of particular ideas. Its philosophy is engaged in discovering these fundamental principles and ideas—establishing their verity and relative importance, and ranging in proper dependence subordinate notions and facts. Questions of such interest cannot fail to engage your attention, or to repay, manifold, your efforts; and in our day, when the strife of isms and the rage of new-fangled notions is such, that it has become almost the fashion of the times, to disbelieve in medicine as a science, and to cast reproach upon its adherents as blindly groping in superstitious darkness, and doing good or evil as chance may direct their hand, it becomes the more important that the foundations of one's belief and practice be philosophically established, that one accept, and knowing wherefore the doctrines of empiricism or of rationalism, or of both—or that one intelligently take sides with the organicists or vitalists of modern times, or maintain a medium ground.

Ladies, you will allow us a word upon your rights and duties as members of the medical profession. These will not differ in consequence of your womanhood, from the rights and duties of physicians of the opposite sex. The same rules of conscience and of etiquette which should govern them, should govern you.

These you will find prescribed in that code of ethics promulgated by the Divine hand, and inscribed upon the sacred page, or upon every man's conscience, and in that lesser code as adopted by the American Medical Association. To both these, we would refer you as capable of furnishing useful suggestions for the various events of your professional lives.

It was a remark of the celebrated Hufeland, that "the highest mission of man after that of the service of the altar, was to be priest of the sacred fire of life, dispenser of the best gifts of God, and master of the occult forces of nature, for the preservation of health and the cure of disease. To live for others and not for one's self, is the essence of the medical profession; and to its supreme end, that of saving the life and health of others, should the physician sacrifice not only his ease, his personal advantages, the pleasures and agreements of life, but if need be, his health and existence, possibly even his reputation."

To accomplish a mission so high, the physician has need of peculiar qualifications of mind and heart. Most emphatically should he be able to "add to faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity."

In the details of his daily practice, the physician should be discrete and prudent, never seeking to penetrate the secrets of his patients, beyond what may be necessary to a thorough appreciation of the case, and a proper discharge of his duty:—should guard at all times and most sacredly the confidences entrusted to him; even before the bar of justice revealing nothing that could in any manner compromise the honor or reputation of his patients.

We would insist upon this point the more, inasmuch as, being women, the sorrows, woes even, of many a heart, will be poured into yours; and inasmuch, also, as the accusation is gratuitously bestowed upon our sex, of prying unnecessarily into the affairs of others, and of holding our confidences lightly. It is time this reproach were removed from the brow of womanhood, and as women not less than as physicians, there is work for you in

showing yourselves worthy of confidence, and reticent where reticence is due.

The physician should be alike impartial to the rich and the poor, lavishing his attentions upon the most sick and the most unfortunate, and never refusing his care, in an urgent case, to a fellow-mortal, however unworthy,—be he a personal enemy, the enemy of one's country or of humanity, or to whatever extent degraded by debauchery and crime.

Perhaps in a moral sense is this forgetfulness of social distinctions, and this self-abnegation more especially required of women who would make themselves ministers of good to their kind. The duties of the physician are not limited to the relief of the physical sufferings of his fellows. Another apostolate is given him with reference to their moral and intellectual progress, and when we remember the low estate of woman in mental culture and attainments, the manifold hindrances which place themselves in her pathway toward excellence in any department, and the scorn with which an erring daughter of Eve is continually reminded of her fault, and plunged deeper in ruin, we cannot but regard it as one of the distinctive missions of the woman physician, in giving her portion to the defence of the public health, that she spare no effort for the instruction and elevation of woman, especially that she endeavor to diffuse correct hygienic notions, and to inculcate those moral precepts from which one may not depart without danger to health and life.

It has been remarked, "For the physician, ignorance is not simply a misfortune—it is a crime, for it may leave a patient to die, or directly cause his death." However instructed, therefore, the true physician will labor still, and that the more earnestly as science shall advance the more rapidly.

In what manner should this labor be accomplished becomes a question of real moment to such as you, going out, as you go to-day, to assume the office and responsibilities of the physician.

Were we gentlemen, addressing those of our own sex, it would be no difficult task to offer some practical hints upon this point. Going into whatever community almost, you would find essential assistance in the fraternal fellowship of neighboring

physicians, and from medical societies, ready to welcome you to their councils.

As women, you may yet, for a time, have to forego these helps, and to establish your claim to recognition and fellowship by years of patient work and waiting.

If such shall be your fortune, the more urgent will be the necessity of creating for yourselves opportunities of instruction by supplying yourselves with books and periodicals, and by carefully studying in its details whatever case may come before you. From the multiplicity of books now offered to the profession, and from their expensiveness, it will be quite impossible for you to procure at once anything like a complete library, as it would be quite impossible, should an active practice soon throw itself upon your hands, to make yourselves familiar with the subject-matter of its volumes.

It will probably be better for you to possess yourselves of a few standard authors upon the different branches of medical practice, in addition to your college text-books, and then rely much upon journals—some substantial foreign journal, with such American periodicals as you may have occasion to value. We say *foreign* journal, not that we have a predeliction for things *outre-mer*, but that foreign journals, if not as a class conducted better than our own, give us information from a different stand-point, make us familiar with a more extended field of observation and of literature, and afford us broader range from which to gather suggestions, or to select valuable books. Home journals have their advantages in giving us suggestions with reference to our own literature, to forms and varieties of disease peculiar to our country and circumstances, and to the value of different modes of treatment in the same, or nearly the same conditions.

Neither should the study and reading of the physician be confined to what may be regarded as essentially medical subjects. In the language of the late lamented Buckle, "No one can have a firm grasp of any science, if, by confining himself to it, he shuts out the light of analogy and deprives himself of that peculiar aid which is derived from a commanding survey

of the co-ordination and inter-dependence of things, and of the relations they bear to each other. He may no doubt work at the details of his subject; he may be useful in adding to it facts; he will never be able to enlarge its philosophy, for the philosophy of every department depends upon its connection with other departments, and must, therefore, be sought at their points of contact. It must be looked for in the place where they touch and coalesce; it lies not in the centre of each science, but on the confines and margins."

Besides, the study of other departments, of the natural sciences, of mental and moral philosophy, of belles-lettres, and of the arts even, in addition to giving the physician a broader acquaintance with his own science, a richer mental furnishing for his especial work, supplies one of the most imperative wants of the human mind, that of variety, in its occupations.

To no one is the rule of constancy in the pursuit of his profession, of more importance than to the physician. The proverb "*Qui va á la chasse perd sa place,*" has had more than one illustrious exemplification in the lives of men distinguished for talent, and holding positions by royal favor, and, in the humbler records of the profession, perhaps no single cause has more frequently blighted the fairest hopes, than the habit of absence from the post of duty.

It is a dictate of reason, not less than of humanity, that the physician should never abandon his patient, however incurable he may suppose him. The resources of nature are incalculable, and the most intractable diseases—phthisis and cancer even—have yielded to her ministrations, when effort had seemed unavailing. If we may quote again from Hufeland, "Life is too short for us ever to be able to say, with certainty of not being deceived, that there is no further hope; and it is a rule important to the physician never to lose hope or courage: hope suggests new ideas, opens new ways to the mind, and even renders possible that which had seemed impossible. He who no longer hopes ceases to think: he falls into apathy, and the patient should necessarily perish, for he who is called to succor him is already dead."

Neither will the true physician abandon his patient in his hour of mortal agony; but when hope and effort are no longer availing to save, will cheerfully bestow those tender ministrations, by which death shall be robbed of half his terrors.

The physician, of all men, perhaps, needs an abiding faith in that Providence which rules over all;—nay more, a religious trust in a personal, present, spiritual guide, and a sense of accountability to Him in whose hand is the giving and the withholding of life. Accountable to no other for his determinations and his acts, and dealing with a subject no less precious than human life, the thought of the Eternal should be ever present to his spirit, and a light from before the throne of the Almighty should guide him in the way. The sweet influences of religion, besides sustaining his own soul in a thousand anxious perplexities, become often a marvelous resource of good to his patients, teaching them consolation in misfortunes, the control of the passions, influencing all their acts of life, and consequently their health, and the physician ought not to be without this arm of strength.

Ladies, in bidding you farewell, you will permit us to hope, that for a time at least, disordered Nature may present herself to you in amiable mood; that the highest success may attend your ministrations upon the sick and the suffering, and that the choicest blessings of Providence and of Grace, may enrich your future lives.

THE

FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

North College Avenue & Twenty-Second St., Philadelphia,

(Near Girard College.)

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION of this Institution will commence on Wednesday, October 14th, 1863, and continue FIVE MONTHS.

In the face of opposition, and amid the difficulties inseparable from a new enterprise, the Faculty and Corporators have worked on in faith until they have seen many of the obstacles to the full medical education of women removed, and they are now able to offer facilities to the earnest student never possessed before.

A Hospital for the Treatment of Diseases of Women and Children, established under the auspices of this Institution, has treated, within the last year, in its indoor and outdoor departments, more than fifteen hundred patients. This is open to our students, and offers fine opportunities for acquaintance with various forms of disease, and with the operation of remedies.

Still year by year the Faculty find additional evidence that the ripe time for women to study and practice medicine has fully come, shown by the widening demand for their professional services, and the position accorded to the capable among them, as well as by the peculiar adaptation which *experience* proves them to possess for many departments of medicine.

The necessities and changes engendered by our civil war, demand new and remunerative employments for many women, and, to those possessing the requisite qualifications, there is, perhaps, no sphere of noble and virtuous activity that offers higher inducements than that of medicine.

The College possesses ample facilities for imparting thorough scientific instruction in the various branches of a Medical education; the lectures and demonstrations being aided by an excellent Museum of Papier Maché Models, Drawings, Natural Preparations, Microscopes, and other apparatus.

The Faculty are deeply impressed with the necessity of raising the general standard of Medical education, and it is their earnest desire to render those who go forth as the Alumni of this school, so thoroughly fitted for their work as to claim and receive the confidence and respect of the community and the profession.

The curriculum of study in this Institution and the requirements for graduation, are in all respects as high as those of the best Medical Schools in this country. The candidate must have been engaged in the study of medicine three years, and must have attended in different years, two courses of lectures on each of the following subjects: *Chemistry and Toxicology, Anatomy and Histology, Materia Medica and General Therapeutics, Physiology and Hygiene, Principles and Practice of Medicine, Principles and Practice of Surgery, Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*, and must also have taken two courses of instruction in *Practical Anatomy*.

The application for the degree must be made at least six weeks before the close of the session.

The candidate, at the time of application, must exhibit to the Dean, the tickets for admission to two courses of lectures, as above specified, and present the graduation fee, and a thesis on some medical subject, of her own composition and penmanship.

The thesis, which will in all cases be retained by the Faculty, will be referred for examination to one of the Professors, and general bad spelling or inattention to the rules of grammar, shall preclude a candidate from examination.

Each candidate will be examined by each Professor separately, and when the examinations are completed, will be voted for by ballc.

THE FEES ARE AS FOLLOVS:

Professor's Tickets each $10.00, making $70.00 the first year, and $70.00 the second year. Practical Anatomy $5.00 each session. No fees are required for lectures after the second session. Graduation fee $25.00. Whole cost of two or more courses of lectures and graduation, $175.00. Six students will be admitted annually to the lectures, on the payment of $20.00 per session, by making application at least thirty days before the opening of the session, accompanied by testimonials as to character, age, occupation, qualifications, and want of means. Any lady who does not incline to become a physician, yet desires instruction in some of the branches taught in a Medical College, as a part of a liberal education, may take the tickets and attend the Lectures of any one or more of the Professors.

Board will be secured for those who may request it, either at the Hospital or in some other place convenient to the College.

Communications should be addressed to

MRS. E. H. CLEVELAND, M. D.,
Woman's Hospital, North College Avenue, Philadelphia.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

Woman's Medical College

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AT THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT,

MARCH 14, 1868,

BY EMELINE H. CLEVELAND, M.D.

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Published by the Corporators.

PHILADELPHIA:
JAS. B. RODGERS, PRINTER, 52 & 54 NORTH SIXTH STREET.
1868.

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LANE LIBRARY

The Sixteenth Annual Commencement was held at the College on Saturday, March 14th, 1868, when the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the President, T. Morris Perot, Esq., upon the following named ladies:—

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Odelia Blinn,	Massachusetts,	Meningitis.
Sarah A. Coon,	New York,	The Heart.
Mary E. Greene,	New York,	Medical Jurisprudence.
Delila S. Irish,	Iowa,	Valvular Diseases of the Heart.
Agnes M. Johnson,	Ohio,	Maternal Influence.
Francena E. Porter,	Massachusetts,	Enteric Fever.
Harriet E. Preston,	Pennsylvania,	Opium.
Frances A. Rutherford,	New York,	Value of Objective Symptoms in Diagnosis.
Nancy C. Smith,	Pennsylvania,	Pneumonia.
Mary E. Wilson,	Pennsylvania,	Acne.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

LADIES, GRADUATES:—

On behalf of the Faculty of the College which has just awarded you its diploma, it becomes my pleasant duty to offer you a word of congratulation. The present is a moment of profound interest to each of you, not only as marking the completion of a definite course of study, but as your initiation to a career of honorable and useful labor. The diploma is given you in testimony of our regard for your acquirements, and of our confidence in your integrity and your appreciation of the great interests, individual and for humanity, which shall be entrusted to your keeping. You accept it as your commission to a responsible and arduous work.

The life of a physician is made up of self-sacrifice and unremitting labor. A foretaste of these you have already experienced in your prolonged separation from your respective home circles, and in years of patient study. Your further appreciation of the responsibilities and enjoyments of a medical life will be a growth of time, and will be commensurate with your growth in intelligent and conscientious devotion to the duties of your office. The relief of human suffering is second only to the promotion of human virtue, and is an employment worthy the highest efforts of the most cultivated and refined.

We congratulate you upon your accession to this sacred office, and if, in this moment, we assume to give you a word of counsel, we do

it with full confidence in your generous regard. The experiences of those who have preceded us in any undertaking, though they walk but a step in advance, are never without importance as guides to our own appreciation of the objects to be attained or the methods to be adopted. This is especially true in the beginning of a career which involves not only the efficiency and happiness of our individual lives, but which concerns also the deepest interests of society.

You have completed your time of collegiate instruction, but we rest in the assurance that your life of study has but commenced. You have learned that the science of medicine is progressive, that everywhere is observed at present a noble effort to enlarge the foundations on which medical practice is based, that theories, new and old, are being submitted to further tests, and confirmed by the weight of additional proof, or exploded in the light of new experiences, and that methods in medicine and surgery, as in the mechanic arts, and in every department of scientific inquiry, are being continually modified. In the light of those observations, you are already aware that no degree of attainment can be considered an ultimatum—that continuous study is of first necessity to the physician who would maintain an honorable place with his compeers, or give his patients their due of valuable service.

We would also congratulate you that you enter the profession in an age abounding in facilities for labor and self-improvement. Of the making of books, there is surely now no end, while monographs and journals of medicine are almost like the leaves of summer for abundance. No sooner is a new thought evolved, though in the brain of the humblest physician, than a generous impulse offers it to the whole fraternity on the pages of some popular journal, or enshrines it with the dignity of independent publication. From the great centres of medical learning come almost daily reports of experiments or observations of practice,

while the very ends of the earth, China and the Punjaub even, withhold not their occasional contributions. Every improvement in diagnosis becomes at once the common property of the profession, as every suggestion in the way of treatment finds ready access to the most obscure physician. The test-tube and the microscope are now among the common articles of the consulting-room, and every physician may become more or less an adept in discovering disease by means of chemical reagents or by observations upon the ultimate physical characters of tissues.

The fear has ever been entertained by some who hold women in the highest reverence and esteem, lest their participation in the study and practice of medicine should tend to lessen their sense of delicacy and destroy that love of the pure and beautiful in nature and in life which constitutes one of the greatest charms of womanhood. This honest fear is worthy of all respect, and is to be met with no denunciations. No one can be blind to the fact that though as a class in the community physicians are men of high tone, of reverent regard for the truth, and whose influence is a power for good, there are found, nevertheless, individual doctors who scorn not the baser motives or the more ignoble practices. That these are victims of an unfavorable profession we cannot admit. We are loth to believe that there is aught in the study or practice of medicine to excite feelings of irreverence in any breast, or to disturb that nice sense of harmony and fitness which is the birthright of the good. We feel sure that, on the contrary, you have found the study of Anatomy "a hymn in honor of the Creator," that Physiology has been to you but the revelation of the glories of a majestic temple, that you have learned to regard disease as an exceptional perversion of a divine order, and that your study of remedial agents has led you to admire the beneficent wisdom that has made every department and kingdom of nature subservient to the comfort and healing of man; in fine, that the

study of medicine has but strengthened your womanly feeling, your reverence for the Divine, whether in the Godhead or in humanity; your love for the right, whether towards the Maker or the humblest of his creatures.

Some of you may labor under disabilities in consequence of a prejudice which still obtains in certain localities. We are glad, however, to believe that a friendly welcome awaits the most of you, not only from the communities in which you shall settle, but from gentlemen of your own profession. The testimony of those who have preceded you as graduates of our school, warrants us in this hope for yourselves. Besides, the feeling that places obstacles in the way of the culture and the honorable employment of any human being—man or woman—is but the relic of a barbarous age, and must yield before the advancing idea of individual liberty—liberty of conscience, of judgment, of action. The conclusion is already foregone, even in circles where marked opposition has prevailed, that women have the most natural claim to participation in the acquirements, the labors, and the emoluments of the medical profession, that this movement for their education is but the natural expression of the general onward movement of the race in intelligence, in culture, and in ripeness of moral character.

You well know that this movement is not confined to our own country; that the idea of medicine as a profession for women cannot longer be regarded as the idle vagary of a people yet in the infancy of its development; that in England, France, Prussia, Russia, and even in Algeria, women have felt the demand for more extended intelligence and for broader activity, and have looked to medicine as the science most fitting their genius. We are gratified to learn that in some of these countries educational facilities are not denied to them. Our latest advices inform us that "the University of Zurich has already conferred the degree of doctor of medicine upon

one woman, and that two others are attending lectures there." We are also informed that "an American woman" (a graduate of our college) "has, during the past year, not only visited freely in the hospitals of Paris, but been admitted to attend the lectures at l'École Pratique." Her letters have frequently graced the pages of our medical journals, and have given ample proof of intelligence in observation and of enthusiastic appreciation of the lectures and other advantages enjoyed. We learn also, through the *London Lancet*, that the question of choosing a woman to fill a chair in the obstetric section of the Academy of Medicine of Paris is being considered, and that the chief midwife of the Maternité Hospital will probably be so elected. Madame Alliot, the present incumbent of this office, is a woman of profound knowledge and vast experience, a worthy successor of Boivin and La Chapelle, and an honored co-worker with the most enlightened obstetricians of Paris. In England, though the doors of Apothecaries' Hall are closed to lady students, we are informed, upon reliable authority, that Miss Garret, the first graduate of an English school, is doing honor to herself and her profession by the quiet but convincing manner in which she is pursuing her vocation. Her ministrations are sought by noble and intelligent women, while some of the foremost of the honorable profession of London accede, with pleasure, to her calls for counsel. A dispensary is already organized under her supervision, and a number of lady students are availing themselves of its advantages. A college is also in operation in London, under other auspices, for the education of women in the science of midwifery, and the accessory branches of medicine. The special objects of the founders of the college are "to promote the employment of capable and well educated women in the practice of midwifery, and the diseases of women and children;" but no limitation is set by the college charter to the branches of medicine that shall be taught, nor to the development and perfection of the ar-

rangements of the college. It is intimated that the work shall be extended as public feeling becomes awakened to its importance. The present courses of lectures include "Anatomy and Physiology, with Dietetics, and a general survey of disease—its causation, results, and treatment"—"Hygiene and Preventive Medicine," "Midwifery, and the diseases of Women and Children." This latter chair is occupied by Dr. Murphy, long and well known as Obstetric professor at University College. The movement is sustained by men and women of intelligence and social position, among whom may be mentioned Lords' Shaftesbury and Houghton, Florence Nightingale, Dr. Farr, the eminent vital statistician, and John Stuart Mill, a name synonymous with all that is just and generous. The arguments in favor of the movement are based not alone upon the necessity of devising means for the employment of cultivated women in suitable occupations, but upon the advantages destined to accrue to society from the ministrations of well-instructed and capable midwives. Interesting statistics are adduced to show the lesser degree of mortality from the various puerperal causes in the *clientelle* of lady practitioners, as also to prove the competency of women not only to superintend the common process of paturition, but to meet successfully the most formidable emergencies. It is averred that the first Cesarian operation performed successfully in the United Kingdom, was by an Irish midwife, Mary Donaly. The great skill displayed in the operation, and in securing and dressing the wound is especially noted, and is regarded as proof that women may, when properly educated, become equal to whatever is necessary to be done. Thus the seed is sown which shall ripen to a harvest even in England. Women may be excluded for a time from college and hospital advantages, and courts of examiners may refuse to receive any certificates of lectures or instruction delivered outside of the public recognized medical schools; but with the demand for lady physicians con-

tinually increasing, and with the question of woman's franchise, already before the Parliament, and sustained by some of the greatest intellects of that body, and by many of the young men, on whom the future of England depends; and with the question already practically settled by the recorded vote of Lily Maxwell for the return of the brother of John Bright to the councils of the nation, we cannot believe that a step will be taken backward. The following confirmatory notice appears to-day in the columns of a weekly journal:

"WOMEN DOCTORS.—A step in advance has been made in London. A fortnight ago the court of assistants of the Apothecaries' Company decided that women should not be excluded from their examinations in arts; and it is probable that this important concession will be followed by admitting them unreservedly to the medical examinations. It is said this decision has been mainly brought about by Dr. N. Buchanan, an influential member of the court of assistants, which is the governing body. Dr. Buchanan is also a considerable subscriber to the funds of the Female Medical Society, and he is a member of a select committee recently formed "to promote the development of the Ladies' Medical College on a sound public basis." The college has now been in successful operation for four years. It has already become self-supporting, and has among its list of subscribers and friends the names of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Mrs. Gladstone, Lord Houghton, Archbishop Manning, the Earl of Shaftesbury, and others."

Ladies, your happiness and usefulness in the profession will depend largely upon the zeal with which you cultivate medicine as a science. The physician who allows himself to fall into a routine of practice without regard to the philosophies of medicine, will soon find the daily round to become onerous and irksome. Your teachings have aimed not so much to tax your memories with detailed observations, as to fix in your apprehension the prin-

ciples which govern the issues of health and disease, and which should determine the choice of remedies. It will not be surprising if you shall for a time over-estimate the rôle demanded of you. This is too often the fault of young physicians, going forth as they do laden with theories and eager for the exercise of their newly-acquired talents. This is generally corrected, however, as year by year their reading and observation become extended. By this, is not implied that you shall become careless in matters of diagnosis or lose your confidence in remedial measures. To know what is the matter with your patient is a *sine qua non* to any broad success in treatment, as confidence in your means of cure is in itself a curative agent. Among the potencies in medicine, however, not the least is the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, and he is most fully master of his art who believes in nature's healing power, and who knows how to invoke her kindly assistance.

In our day of the general diffusion of intelligence, patients not infrequently inquire what is the nature of any given attack of illness, what are its causes, its means of cure, and how shall subsequent attacks be avoided. Whether such desire for knowledge is legitimate and to be gratified, must be left to the discretion of the physician in each particular case. There are certainly instances in which the influence of such communications would be unfavorable, if not wholly prejudicial to the welfare of the patient; whereas, in other cases, the bonds of intelligent sympathy are strengthened and the effects of remedial measures increased by a frank statement, at the proper moment, of the meaning of each particular circumstance, and of the nature and action of each remedy employed. Your cultivated intelligence and your native tact must be your guides in this matter. We know the impression still obtains with many that it is necessary to the maintenance of the proper authority and influence of the physician, that the strictest reticence be observed in all professional matters. We do not observe, however,

that any greater regard or any more sincere respect attaches to the name of him who thus courts the public deference. So far as regards the question of professional obligation, the duty of the physician to guard the character and reputation of his patients, and to maintain a discreet silence in personal matters, no honorable physician makes any doubt. We need administer no Hippocratic oath to ensure your observance of any demand of propriety in this regard. Your own sense of what is right and fitting is in full accord with the prescribed rules of the profession.

You will avoid, by all suitable means, the unenviable distinction of being peculiar. Not that we would advise you to sacrifice in any measure your independence of thought, or to frame your actions by the judgment of others; that would be a condescension obnoxious to your intelligence, and in no way calculated to heighten the esteem in which you would be held. In becoming physicians, however, though you by no means abandon the fireside and the privacy of home, you extend your range of sympathies, and accept in turn the fact of more public observation. This exposes you to severer criticism, if not to harsher judgment, and makes it the more necessary that your every act be weighed in the balance of discretion. In your professional conduct especially will double diligence be demanded, that every action be governed by prudence. As young physicians you will be subjected to the common doubt regarding the inexperienced, while, as women, neither the profession nor the community will judge lightly of your errors. This must be accepted in the beginning of your career, and watchful guard maintained over your acquirements, that they keep pace with every improvement in medical knowledge, over your practice, that it be in accordance with what is recognized as wise and prudent, and over your conduct, that it be governed by those rules of common morality and of Christian charity, which constitute the ethical code of the profession of this country. These rules have been made a part

of your teachings, and we would further commend them to your careful study as founded in right and justice, and calculated to prevent the possibility of misunderstandings and disagreements in your professional relations.

The question of devoting yourselves to some special department of practice is one which will naturally adjust itself. Your own preference and the demands of society will probably lead the most of you to the practice of obstetrics, and the treatment of the general diseases of women. Should circumstances or choice favor the adoption of any more limited field, you have your warrant for this in the growing tendency in the profession to the cultivation of specialties, and the increasing conviction that by this alone may the greatest general intelligence and skill be attained. Should the versatility of your genius demand a more extended range of action, we could point you to examples of eminent success in women now engaged in general practice.

Ladies, the hour for our parting has arrived. May we not hope, in bidding you farewell, that each of you goes to the practical work of the physician with a full sense of the sacredness of her mission! May your courage be equal to each occasion, your zeal ever quick for new exertions, and your hope bright even in the hour of darkness.

May your lives be

> "Not marked by noise, but by success alone,
> Not known by bustle, but by useful deeds,
> Quiet and gentle, clear and fair as light."

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